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## **Tutunjian Responds to Curtis Sliwa Remark**

For Immediate Release

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(December 11, 2004- TROY)- Mayor Harry Tutunjian responded to comments Saturday made by Guardian Angels founder Curtis Sliwa regarding the safety of the City of Troy. During a press conference in the City of Schenectady on Friday, Sliwa commented that he would like to come to Troy and help out, particularly in the area near Russell Sage College, which Sliwa said has not gotten safer over the years.

"I respect everything the Guardian Angels stand for, and appreciate their hard work," Tutunjian said. "However, their help is not needed in the City of Troy. The area near Russell Sage College, and the entire downtown is far and away the safest large city in the entire area. We do not understand the epidemic the City of Schenectady is currently going through. Seven murders in one year is a lot."

While one murder is too many, Tutunjian commented that the City of Troy has six murders in the past six years, and all other crime is down as well.

"The Guardian Angels can come to Troy anytime they like- to shop, to look at our historic architecture, to enjoy our beautiful City," Tutunjian said. "But we do not need help fighting crime. Our police force, with the help of residents, does a wonderful job. We still have a long way to go, but through hard work and dedication, I am confident our streets will remain the safest in the area."

Troy Police Benevolent Association President Robert Fitzgerald agreed with Tutunjian Saturday, stating that the police force is constantly working for the betterment of the City.

"With cooperation from the administration and Chief Nicholas Kaiser, we have been able to implement strategic measures to fight crime, and it is obviously working," Fitzgerald said. "We are seeing new businesses pop up on a daily basis, as well as a rise in property values. This is a direct result of continued police efforts."